



Angel Food Ministries

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What started as a fundraiser has turned into a mission for Heartland Lutheran School. As they help bring affordable food to Grand Island.

The school started participating in Angel Food Ministries, a national organization that provides boxes of food for a fraction of what you'd pay in the grocery store.

Buying his groceries from Angel Food Ministries is one way Eric Manka's cutting costs. This frees up money for other important items. "Just bills now. That's all it goes to," Manka said.

Heartland Lutheran decided to try the program only months ago, but it wasn't until after it started officials learned how much it was needed. "[We heard] we could do this as a money raising project and it's actually turned into more of a ministry," said Lloyd Wagnitz of Heartland Lutheran Schools.

The national organization started during a period of economic stress in the 1990's. It's goal was to help those struggling put food on the table. "The regular box is \$30 and you get enough food for four people for a week. It's got your meat, fruits, vegetables, eggs, dessert and shelf milk," explained Wagnitz.

Whether you're one of the millions left jobless, or just looking to save a buck, this organization may be the answer to your prayers.

"This is our third month of doing it. We've found the food is excellent. It's certainly priced really competitive and a little bit better priced than some of the local grocery stores," said Bill Schlachter.

"The last month we did this it was almost \$200 that we saved," said Manka.

News of the savings has traveled fast. Since the program started in December the number of boxes sold has continued to grow. "It looks like we could hit 400 or 500 in April," Wagnitz said.

In December 23 boxes were sold. This month it's 159.

Reporter's Notes by Laurie Dutcher:

Anyone is able to buy food. It's not based on income.

There are boxes for families or individuals.

Retail value of the \$30 boxes is around \$60-\$70 according to Wagnitz.

To purchase a box or learn more, contact Heartland Lutheran School in Grand Island **(308) 385-3900**.

The school gets \$1 for every box they sell. "It benefits the high school as well as it's pretty reasonably priced food. It gives us a pretty good bargain. It's easier than having to go to the grocery store," said Schlachter.

"Our goal is to get it around 1000 [boxes]. If we get it to 400 or 600, food will actually be shipped here instead of Lincoln. Right now we have to go to Lincoln on Saturday morning to pick up food," explained Wagnitz.

Food is ordered once a month and can be picked at the end of the month.



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